

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. If they are allowed to use their free airwaves to air such a one-sided program, they must be forced to give equal time to the other point of view as well by airing something like "Going Upriver" soon before or after. It's bad enough that we have to suffer Fox News' claims of being fair when they are not. This adds another straw to the poor camel's back. The public deserves and has a right to even-handed, objective news; and equal airing of opposing points of view. How can democracy work otherwise? As our watchdog for this sort of infraction, it is imperative that the FCC step in to prevent this one-sided electioneering just before this important Presidential election.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.